

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND NGO'S

Mykola Gumennyi

Sumy State University, Sumy, Ukraine

Problems such as air quality and water pollution, global warming, nuclear waste, and energy resources are experienced globally, and as a result, individuals and organizations have coalesced around environmental issues worldwide. The term often used to describe the elements of these movements is nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). This differentiates the activism of grassroots organizations from the official policymaking conducted by governments and their leaders.

Global environmental activism is frequently linked to political and economic events, especially in newly developing areas. One study has found that as education and per capita income increase, environmental quality initially worsens; but at some point, this worsening peaks and then declines. Similarly, a growth in pollution-intensive industries and a lack of environmental regulation eventually evolve into service- and information-intensive activities, reducing the burden on the environment. The result is a gradual change in public opinion that demonstrates that there is a serious concern about environmental problems, although primarily those at the local level.

NGOs associated with environmental issues play a significant role in the global debate. They tend to serve as outspoken critics of the government and transnational corporations, highlighting activities that degrade the environment. They often serve as the independent monitors of international agreements and as linkages to international governmental organizations such as the United Nations. They may provide a forum that builds public awareness about environmental problems and, in some cases, become parties in legal proceedings against nations that fail to comply with international treaties and regimes. They have been less successful in affecting on those organizations, which finance large projects in developing countries.

It is important to note that on a global level, NGOs are changing rapidly in response to fluctuations in economies, political leadership, and sociocultural events.

The second half of the XX century made alterations both in the legal systems of almost entire countries and in an international law. An environment was world acknowledged as fundamental public value.

Till recently the ecological management was examined by the task especially governmental, which touched acceptance of laws and control after their implementation. In the best case industry was involved in it. However, the awareness of that power, industry and population, is jointly responsible for the proper state of environment grew gradually. The problem of clean and healthy environment touches each of us.

Public more consciously perceives a fact, that contamination of environment and exploitation of nature have the harmful consequences. It compels politicians to take public opinion into account. Exactly public heaved up the questions of ecological problems, that was reflected in laws limitation of certain types of environmental impact. in many countries defense of natural values became the primary objective of policy both on national and on local levels. This certificate of that participation of public can be very effective.

Presently there is a number of the problems related to the environment and public participation in its defense.

There are mass violations of ecological legislation in Ukraine, the culprits of which, foremost, there are local and central public agents; Supreme Soviet of Ukraine does not execute the functions of supervisory organ. Legal nihilism inherent for all spheres of public life is peculiar and for nature protection practice, an ecological legislative base is corrected in the direction of diminishing of public rights.

The crisis of environment is caused by indifference of considerable part of civil servants to the problems of environment and indecision of public ecological organizations in relation to criticism of public servants.

The system of nature protections institutions has considerable internal problems:

- insufficient normative base of activity,
- absence of skilled personnel with modern administrative skills,
- shortage and ineffective using of resources,
- practical absence of modern methodical developments,
- deficit of objective information.

Public ecological organizations give negative description to the state of collaboration of public and imperious structures in introduction of ecological policy of the state. The mode of financing of NGOs in Ukraine is unfavorable, a state policy in industry of their support requires the revision.

At the same time bringing in of public to these processes have its own advantages.

The nongovernmental agencies, including noncommercial organizations, possess the acknowledged and various experience special knowledge's and potential in those regions which will matter special for realization ecologically safe and socially oriented steady development. The NGOs are a network which must be connected to work on achievement of these general aims, to provide with the proper plenary powers and to fix.

Public is one of the most substantial resources which can be used for development and introduction environmental preserving justice and policy. Bringing in of public is a deciding factor in creation and introduction of the expedient and effective mode of environment preserving.

Plenty of citizens can compensate the lack of monitoring, supervisory and executive resources of government and to save its time and money. Citizens can come forward as «eyes and ears» of government, identifying an ecological danger or violation of current legislation and causing their liquidation or stopping.

Thus, society, governments and international bodies, must develop mechanisms by which the nongovernmental organizations would act part of partners taken to them in the process of ecologically safe and steady development responsibly and effectively.

The proper public authorities must carry responsibility for effective preparation of the state serving with the purpose of deepening of their understanding of duties in the field of access giving for public to information and simplifications of public participation in the process of decision-making in environmental preserving area.

The state must assist to public organization's participation in the processes of decision-making in environmental defense and in the processes of decision-making, having the considerable consequences for ecology.